

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly Newscast

February 28th, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca



<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. tensions	a) soldiers; people in the army
	2. intervene	b) uncontrolled events; disorganized behaviour
	3. region	c) most
	4. demonstrators	d) get in the middle; get involved in someone else's business
	5. majority	e) to make someone or something do something
	6. concerns	f) area; province or state
	7. troops	g) people of a country, province or city
	8. force	h) people protesting (publicly disagreeing with the government)
	9. chaos	i) high levels of stress
	10. citizens	j) worries

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

break out – to begin or start

pro - support for something

anti – against something

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ inside Ukraine after the fall of President Viktor Yanukovich.	a) There are tensions b) There is Russian intervention
2. Fistfights broke out between _____ in the Ukraine's Crimea region.	a) Russians and Ukrainians b) pro- and anti-Russian demonstrators
3. There are concerns that Crimea may _____.	a) try to separate. b) be majority Russian.
4. Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered tests of Russian troops _____.	a) just across the border. b) in the Crimea region of the Ukraine.
5. _____ forced the pro-Russian Yanukovich to go into hiding.	a) Three months of fist fighting b) Three months of protests
6. Russia's prime minister says it sees the chaos in Ukraine as a threat _____.	a) to Russian citizens. b) to Ukrainian citizens.

Discussion Question

When is it a good idea for one country to take part in the events of another country?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

achieve (work hard to get or finish something)	fewer (less than)	beat (win)
memorable (will be remembered)	moment (a time)	thrilling (exciting)
overall (total; above everyone)	straight (in a row, not missing one)	end up (to finish)

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

go down (in history) – will be written about and remembered as part of history

overtime – When a game is tied at the end of the regular time, the teams are given extra time to try and get one more goal.

1. The new Olympic skiing events were _____ to watch.
2. Of course I enjoyed watching the Canadian curling teams _____ the other teams.
3. The Canadian woman's curling team didn't lose a game, so they won 11 games _____.
4. I made _____ mistakes in my writing this time because my writing is improving.
5. After a lot of studying, I _____ getting 90% on my exam and passing the class.
6. _____, I have to take 4 English classes before I can register in college classes.
7. My plan is to complete the next English class. I will work hard to _____ my goal.
8. My trip to Mexico with my family was very _____. My favorite _____ was seeing my nephew's face the first time he saw the ocean.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **True** or **False**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ Canada ended the Vancouver Olympics with a gold medal in men's hockey.
2. _____ Canada achieved its goal of winning the most medals in the Sochi Olympics.
3. _____ Canada won 25 medals in the Sochi Olympics.
4. _____ Canada beat Sweden in hockey on Sunday, ending the Olympics.
5. _____ The U.S. beat Canada in women's hockey, 3-2.
6. _____ Russia won the most medals at the Olympics this year.
7. _____ Norway won the second most medals and the U.S. was third.

Discussion Question

Do you think the Canadian government should give more money to athletes?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) bungalow	a) answer reply
	2) response	b) one-story house home on one level
	3) touched them	c) money given in an emergency cash payment for a problem
	4) compensation	d) said in a public place said officially
	5) on their behalf	e) in their name for them
	6) announced	f) giving something for free cancelling fees
	7) waving fees	g) made them feel good affected their emotions

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

flood-stricken: affected by a flooded river

blew them away: surprised them greatly

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. How did the Calgary couple advertise their offer of a free home?
2. What kind of home did they plan to knock down?
3. Which town did they hear about that changed their mind about knocking down the house?
4. How old was the Roberts' house, which they lost in the flood?
5. What other sad event had happened to the Roberts?
6. How many people came forward to speak for the Roberts?
7. What extra good news did the Roberts get?

Discussion Question

What are some ways we can help people in need in our everyday lives?

Language Focus

Capital Letters

Capital letters are an important part of written English.

Capital letters are often called *upper case letters*.

The verb *to capitalize* means to change the first letter of a word to a capital letter.

Capital letter / Upper Case: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Lower Case: a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Capitalization rules:

- English sentences always begin with a capital letter.

The following are always capitalized:

- The pronoun “I”
- Proper names: the name of a person, continent, country, city, building, street, language, or natural features (rivers, mountains, lakes) *Ex: Canada, Jasper Avenue, English, Big Bear Lake*
- Months and days of the week *Ex: March, Wednesday*
- The name of a nationality or an ethnic group *Ex: Canadian, Swiss, Brazilian, Somalian*
- A significant religious term *Ex: Bible, Quran, Torah, God, Tipitaka,*
- Roman numerals *Ex: I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X*
- The title of a person *Ex: Mr., Mrs., Dr.*
- The name of historical periods *Ex: Middle Ages, Old Kingdom, Tang Dynasty, Mughal Empire*
- The name of a holiday *Ex: Family Day, Spring Break, Christmas, Remembrance Day*
- The first word, and each important word, of a title (of a book, movie, article...)
- Brand names *Ex: Kleenex, Pampers, Heinz*
- Acronyms, abbreviations of longer words or phrases *Ex: CIDA – Canada International Development Agency, U.N. – United Nations*

Look at the list of rules we have for capitalizations. Using the scripts from this week’s stories, try to find examples of these different rules being used. Answers are in the appendix.

Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	FEBRUARY 28 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of February 28 th .	0:00
Story 1	There are tensions inside Ukraine after the fall of President Viktor Yanukovich and fears that Russia may intervene. Fistfights broke out between pro- and Russian demonstrators in Ukraine's Crimea region on Wednesday. The majority of people there are Russian. There are concerns that Crimea may try to separate. At the same time, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered tests of Russian troops just across the border. Three months of protests forced the pro-Russian Yanukovich to go into hiding. Russia's prime minister says it sees the chaos in Ukraine as a threat to both Russian citizens and Russian interests in Ukraine.	0:10
Story 2	Canada ended the Sochi Olympics the same way it ended the Vancouver Games four years ago, with a gold medal in men's hockey. Canada did not achieve its goal of winning the most medals in Sochi. The team took home one fewer medal than the 26 it won in Vancouver. But Team Canada's 3-0 win over Sweden to end the Olympics on Sunday, will go down as one of the country's many memorable moments from the games. Canada won double hockey gold for a second straight Olympics, with the women's team beating the U.S. 3-2 in a thrilling overtime final earlier in the week. Canada ended up fourth in overall medals in Sochi, with 25 including 10 gold. Host, Russia, finished on top with 33 medals including 13 gold. The United States was second with 28, and Norway was third with 26.	1:04
Story 3	A Calgary couple is giving away their home to one lucky family from High River. The Hasties posted an on-line ad last month -- offering a free home to a flood-stricken family. Jason and Gina Hastie were planning to knock down their bungalow in Killarney and rebuild. But they were moved by so many stories of people in need in High River...that they decided to offer it for free instead. So they put out an ad on Kijiji - and, to no one's surprise, a few thousand people replied. But it was the Roberts response that touched them the most Dave and Verna Roberts lost their 106 year old home in the June Flood - and weren't sure what they would do because they could only receive a small amount of compensation. This came after they had lost their son in car crash earlier in the year. So Dave wrote asking for help. He was supposed to include 2 letters of reference. But instead, about 100 people came forward and wrote on the couple's behalf...and that blew the Hasties away. The Roberts luck isn't over yet the moving company just announced it was waving the tens of thousands of dollars in moving fees.	2:20

Appendix: Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
i	1. tensions	a) soldiers; people in the army
d	2. intervene	b) uncontrolled events; crazy behaviour not following the rules
f	3. region	c) most
h	4. demonstrators	d) get in the middle; get involved with someone else's business
c	5. majority	e) to make someone or something do something
j	6. concerns	f) area; province or state
a	7. troops	g) people of a country, province or city
e	8. force	h) people protesting (publicly disagreeing with the government)
b	9. chaos	i) high levels of stress
g	10. citizens	j) worries

Listening

1. _____ inside Ukraine after the fall of president Viktor Yanukovych.	a) There are tensions b) There is Russian intervention
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3. There are concerns that Crimea may _____.	a) try to separate. b) be majority Russian.
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5. _____ forced the pro-Russian Yanukovych to go into hiding.	a) Three months of fist fighting b) Three months of protests
6. Russia's prime minister says it sees the chaos in Ukraine as a threat _____.	a) to Russian citizens. b) to Ukrainian citizens.

News story 2

Vocabulary

- The new Olympic skiing events were **thrilling** to watch.
- Of course I enjoyed watching the Canadian curling teams **beat** the other teams.
- The Canadian woman's curling team didn't lose a game, so they won 11 games **straight**.
- I made **fewer** mistakes in my writing this time because my writing is improving.
- After a lot of studying, I **ended up** getting 90% on my exam and passing the class.
- Overall**, I have to take 4 English classes before I can register in college classes.
- My plan is to complete the next English class. I will work hard to **achieve** my goal.
- My trip to Mexico with my family was very **memorable**. My favorite **moment** was seeing my nephew's face the first time he saw the ocean.

Listening

1. T Canada ended the Vancouver Olympics with a gold medal in men's hockey.
2. F Canada achieved its goal of winning the most medals.
3. T Canada won 25 medals in the Sochi Olympics.
4. T Canada beat Sweden in hockey on Sunday, ending the Olympics.
5. F The U.S. beat Canada in women's hockey, 3-2.
6. T Russia won the most medals at the Olympics this year.
7. F Norway won the second most medals and the U.S. was third.

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
b	1) bungalow	a) answer reply
a	2) response	b) one-story house home on one level
g	3) touched them	c) money given in an emergency cash payment for a problem
c	4) compensation	d) said in a public place said officially
e	5) on their behalf	e) in their name for them
d	6) announced	f) giving something for free cancelling fees
f	7) waving fees	g) made them feel good affected their emotions

Listening

1. How did the Calgary couple advertise their offer of a free home? They posted an online ad/ on kijiji
2. What kind of home did they plan to knock down? A bungalow
3. Which town did they hear about that changed their mind about knocking down the house? High River
4. How old was the Roberts' house, which they lost in the flood? 106 years old
5. What other sad event had happened to the Roberts? Their son had died in a car accident
6. How many people came forward to speak for the Roberts? about 100
7. What extra good news did the Roberts get? The moving company waved the moving fees.

Language Focus

- English sentences always begin with a capital letter. (See all sentences)
- Proper names: (Viktor Yanukovich, Ukraine, Crimea, Canada, Sochi, Vancouver)
- Months and days of the week: (February, Wednesday, Sunday)
- The name of a nationality or an ethnic group: (Ukrainian, Russian)
- Acronyms, abbreviations: (CBC – Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)